

PULMONARY SYSTEM STRUCTURES

REGION	STRUCTURE	PRIMARY FUNCTION
Upper Respiratory	Nasal Cavity	Filters, warms, and moistens incoming air via ciliated mucosa.
Upper Respiratory	Pharynx	Common passageway for air and food; connects nasal cavity to larynx.
Conducting Zone	Larynx	The "voice box"; contains vocal cords and protects the lower airway.
Conducting Zone	Trachea	Windpipe reinforced by C-shaped cartilage rings to maintain patency.
Conducting Zone	Bronchi	Main branches entering the lungs, distributing air to lobar segments.
Respiratory Zone	Bronchioles	Smallest air passages leading to alveoli; lacks cartilage.
Respiratory Zone	Alveoli	Microscopic air sacs where gas exchange (O ₂ and CO ₂) occurs.
Supportive	Pleura	Double-layered membrane reducing friction during lung expansion.

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Supportive	Diaphragm	Primary muscle of respiration; contracts to increase thoracic volume.